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THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MIDDLE AGES

SYLLABUS OF A COURSE OF SIX LECTURE-STUDIES

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Monograph

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EXERCISES.

Topics for exercises are given at the end of the outline of each lecture. Answers in writing, to not more than two questions each week, are invited from all persons attending the lecture. These should be written on one side of the paper only, a broad margin being reserved on the left. The name of the centre, with some signature of the writer, should stand at the top of the first page. The exercises should be sent to Mr. Oliver J. Thatcher, The University of Chicago, so as to arrive at least two days before the following lecture. They will be returned at the CLASS, the following week, with such marginal and oral comments as they seem to require. There will be an EXAMINATION at the end of the course for students who desire to take it; and the credit given for this course will be based jointly upon the Exercises and the Examination.

Any of the books referred to in these lectures may be obtained at special rates from THE UNIVERSITY PRESS OF CHICAGO, Chicago, Ill. Prices will be quoted on application.

BOOKS WHICH SHOULD BE READ IN CONNECTION WITH THE COURSE.

- SHEPPARD—The Fall of Rome and the Rise of New Nationalities.
KITCHIN—History of France.
PERRY—The Franks to the Death of King Pepin.
DURUY—History of the Middle Ages.
STILLÉ—Studies in Mediæval History.
CUTTS—Scenes and Characters of the Middle Ages.
DURHAM—Europe during the Middle Ages.
BRYCE—Holy Roman Empire.
CHURCH—Beginning of the Middle Ages.
EMERTON—Introduction to the Study of the Middle Ages.
HALLAM—Europe during the Middle Ages.
GIBBON—Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.
KINGSLEY—Roman and Teuton.
RUSK—Mediæval Popes, Emperors, etc.
GREENE—History of the Middle Ages.
CHATFIELD—History of the Darker Ages.
SCHMITZ—History of the Middle Ages.
CURTEIS—History of the Roman Empire from Theodosius to Charlemagne.
LAVISSE—The Political History of Europe.
HODGKIN—Italy and Her Invaders.
HODGKIN—Theodoric the Goth.
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LECTURE I.

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLES.

I. Europe.

- a* Its coast and water-ways.
- b* Its plains and mountains. Natural boundaries.
- c* The varieties of its climate.

II. The Peoples.

a THE ROMANS.

1. Their extent. From the Atlantic to the Euphrates. Rhine and Danube on the North.
2. Their government, an empire. The principle of Absolutism. Free cities oppressed, their officers became the officers of the Emperor. Heavy taxes. The free citizens were ruined. Increase of misery.
3. The policy of Rome toward the subjugated peoples, to *Romanize* them. Extent of this process.
4. Roman civilization, cities, roads, travel, commerce, literature. Greeks and Romans.

b THE CELTS.

1. Their location, west of the Rhine, Great Britain. Formerly almost to the Weser, and Central Europe to Vienna. Three inroads upon the South.
2. Their government, an aristocracy. The power of the priests. The people as slaves. Not one state but many.
3. Their character; love for the gaudy, music, poetry; bold, dashing warriors; fine, powerful figures; (the "Dying Gladiator"); lived in cities.

c THE GERMANS.

1. Their location, at first around the Baltic; their removal to the Black Sea, the Danube, the Maine and the Rhine.
2. Their government; many tribes under kings or dukes, which were elected. The assembly of the tribe, of the hundred. No priest caste. Three classes: nobility, free-men and slaves. The *comitatus*.

3. Their faults were love of war, of the cup, of gambling.
4. Hunting, farming, cattle raising; lived in the country.

d THE SLAVS.

1. Their location, east of the Germans whom they followed to the west and south.
2. Their government, many tribes broken up into small bands without political connection. Their leaders were elected. No nobility among them. The influence of the "elders," led to the usurpation of power. Constant strife among them.
3. Their character, unwarlike, peasants, large and powerful, had idols; a priest caste. Not a strong national character, easily Germanized.

e THE LETTS.

f FINNIC—TURKISH TRIBES.

III. The Christian Church.

Its organization; its attitude to the State; Constantine and Gratian.

EXERCISES.

1. Describe the Germans.
2. Describe the policy of the Romans toward the conquered peoples.
3. Describe the Slavs.
4. What has nature done to promote commerce in Europe?

LECTURE II.

THE MIGRATIONS OF THE NATIONS.

I. Their Causes.

- a* Hunger.
- b* Over population.
- c* One tribe sets another in motion.
- d* Their ideas about the South.

II. The West Goths.

- a* About 373 A. D. the Huns attacked the Goths on the Black Sea and the Danube. The East Goths submitted, the West Goths crossed the Danube and settled on Roman soil.

- b* They revolted 378. Battle of Adrianople, death of Valens. Theodosius quieted them.
- c* Alaric made king. Revolted 395; Alaric led them through Thrace, Macedonia, Greece, and up into Illyricum, where they settled.
- d* In 402 they invaded Italy, but were driven back into Illyricum.
- e* Again invaded Italy 408, sacked Rome. Plans against Africa. Death of Alaric at Eccezz, 410. His character.
- f* His successor, Athaulf, made peace with the Emperor and led his people into S. France and Spain.
- g* His successor, Walia (415), established the kingdom of the West Goths.

III. The **Alemanni** attacked Gaul 406; settled between the Rhine and the Danube and moved into North Switzerland.

IV. The **Alani**, the **Suevi**, and the **Vandals** crossed the Rhine, 406, into N. France; moved to the North, where the **ALANI** settled and were subjugated by Athaulf and Walia. The **SUEVI** and the **VANDALS** went into Spain. The West Goths drove the **SUEVI** into N. W. Spain, and the **VANDALS** into Africa. In 429 A. D. 80,000 Vandals under King Genseric invaded Africa, took all the N. coast, the islands of the W. Mediterranean; invaded Italy and sacked Rome.

V. The **Burgundians** settled near Worms (the scene and theme of the Niebelungen Lied), 407, moved South to the Jura region; Geneva their capital.

VI. **Attila**. His great empire of the **HUNS**. Threatened Constantinople. Invaded the West. Defeated, 451, near Chalons. Invaded Italy 452, his death 454. The end of his empire.

EXERCISES.

1. Describe the route of the West Goths.
2. What were the causes of the migrations?
3. What effect did the battle of Chalons have on the destiny of Europe?

LECTURE III.

THE MIGRATIONS OF THE NATIONS—CONTINUED.

I. The East Goths.

- a* Rome and Constantinople. Two Emperors. Odovaker and the Heruli. The end of Romulus Augustulus and the reunion of the East and the West. The position of Odovaker.
- b* Theodoric the Great, 488–526 (Dietrich of Berne). His connection with Constantinople. Invades Italy 488, murders Odovaker 493. His German policy. Marriages and alliances. His great power, government, attitude to the Romans. Boethius, Cassiodorus. His character.

II. The Franks.

France and Belgium full of small independent tribes. The king of one of these, Chlodowig, 481–511, united them by force. The first of the Merovingian line. "Franks," a collective name.

III. Britain and the Anglo-Saxon Invaders.

- a* A period of piratical invasions till 449.
- b* The Jutes in Kent.
- c* The South Saxons.
- d* The West Saxons.
- e* The East Saxons.
- f* The Angles, North-folk and South-folk. The Middle Angles. The Northumbrians.
- g* The Britons driven back into Wales, called Welsh, Kymry. Their treatment at the hands of the foreigners.
- h* Anglo-Saxon government. Kings. The folk-moot. The hundred-moot. The township. Trials, compurgation, ordeal. Punishments, Weregild. Eorls, Ceorls, Gesiths, Thegns. Disposition of the soil, "ham," "tun."

EXERCISES.

1. Describe the work and character of Theodoric the Great.
 2. Describe the government among the Anglo-Saxons.
 3. Name the tribes that settled in England and give their place of settlement.
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LECTURE IV.

THE NEW CHRISTIAN STATES.

- I. **The Christianization of the Germans.** Effected by traders, soldiers, captives, missionaries. Ulfilas. The Arian type.
- II. **The Relations of the Invaders to the Conquered Peoples.**
 - a* Religious hostility, Arians and Catholics.
 - b* Conquerors and vanquished.
 - c* Barbarian contempt and Roman pride.
 - d* The seizure and division of the soil.
 - e* Taxes.
 - f* The value of the life of a German above that of a Roman.
- III. **The Suevi, 419–585.**

Their kingdom loosely bound together. Slowly mingled with the conquered. The crown was elective; that led to internal wars. 516 they became Catholic; that led to war between them and the West Goths. Their defeat. By 585 the Suevi were subjugated by the West Goths.
- IV. **The Vandals, 429–534.**

Their king, Gaiseric, a great general. Ruled the West Mediterranean. A powerful kingdom. Weakened by quarrels about the crown, by the change of climate, luxury, licentiousness. Treated the Roman subjects with great cruelty. Attacked by the Moors. Easily conquered, 534, by Belisarius.
- V. **The West Goths, 415,–711.**

Some able kings; Theodoric I, 419–51; Euric, 466–83; Leoegild, 569–86; Reccared, 586–601. 509, driven out of France. The character of their laws. The influence of the clergy. Destroyed by the Mohammedans, 711.

VI. The East Goths, 493-555.

Theodoric the Great, 494-526. His good reign, the prosperity of the kingdom. The war with Justinian. Witiges and Totilas, able generals. Narses recovered all Italy for Justinian 555.

VII. The Burgundians, 413-534.

Gundobad, their greatest king, d. 516. Conquered by the Franks, 534.

VIII. The Alemanni, 369-496.

Conquered by the Franks.

IX. The Franks.

In 496 became Orthodox Christians. Effects of this. Syagrius, the last of the Roman officials, driven out, 486. A period of conquest; all the petty kings between the Loire and the Garonne by 507. The Alemanni, 496. The Burgundians, 534.

X. Germanic Law.

Personality of Law. The barbarian codes.

EXERCISES.

1. Describe the Christianization of the Germans.
2. What were some of the hindrances to complete union of the Germans with the peoples among whom they settled?
3. In what respects did German law differ from Roman?

LECTURE V.**THE TEUTONS IN DANGER.****I. The Reaction against the Germans under Justinian, 527-65.**

Justinian and the factions in Constantinople, the Greens and the Blues. His services to Roman Law; 1) The Codex, 2) The Institutes, 3) The Pandects, 4) The Novellae. All in the spirit of absolutism.

His policy, to destroy the Germans and reconquer the West. His conscious anti-German policy. His successes in Africa, in Spain, in Italy. His success checked by

II. His Wars with the Persians.

III. **The Invasions of the Bulgarians**, a Turanian people that settled among the Slavs along the Danube. These threatened Constantinople, and Justinian's army had to be recalled from the West.

IV. **The Avars**, who invaded the territory of Justinian. They made a great invasion to the West, and settled on the middle Danube.

V. **The Slavs**, who occupied much of his territory. They invaded and settled in Greece, Illyricum, Thrace, the Upper Danube, and Germany as far as the Elbe.

VI. **The Lombards** (a German people), who invaded Italy and took all North Italy from the Emperor, 568. In 573, took Pavia and made it their capital. Took Spoleto and Benevento. Built their castles in the cities; effect of this. But could not unite all Italy. The Emperor held Ravenna and South Italy, and the Pope held Rome.

VII. **The Franks**, who rapidly increased in power. Their high estimate of themselves. Their many conquests. Theudebert, 534-48, wished to make an expedition against the Emperor.

The beginnings of an aristocracy. Aristocracy of office, of wealth, of influence.

EXERCISES.

1. Describe the policy of Justinian toward the Germans.
2. How successful was he in this?
3. What prevented his carrying it out?

LECTURE VI.

THE GROWTH OF THE PAPACY.

- I. **"Gifts"** in the early church. Business, oppression, heresy, etc., led to the formation of offices. Each congregation had a bishop. The capital of a province was the seat of an archbishop. Peculiar honor attaching to Antioch, Jerusalem, Alexandria, Constantinople (Ephesus and Corinth), and Rome, because of their supposed connection with some Apostle.

II. Causes of the Growth of the Power of the Bishop of Rome.

- a* Rome, the capital of the West.
- b* No competition with other bishops in the West.
- c* No Emperor in Rome, but the Emperor invested him with political rights.
- d* The Roman Church believed to have been founded by Peter; the Bishop of Rome his successor and heir to all his powers and prerogatives.
- e* The congregation at Rome was large, rich and very liberal.
- f* The supposed orthodoxy of the congregation and of its bishops.
- g* The action of the Council at Constantinople, 381, and at Chalcedon, 451.
- h* About 510, Dionysius Exiguus collected the canons of previous Councils and the decrees of the Popes, putting them on about the same level of authority.
- i* The Roman Catholic conquest of the West. The Bishops of Rome tried to convert the Arian Germans. Sent Augustine to the English, 597. Used English monks to Christianize the Germans and bind them to the Church of Rome, also to bring the French into subjection to the Church of Rome. The work of the Irish.
- j* The Emperor lost power in Italy, the Pope gained correspondingly. His position in Rome. Allies himself with the Lombards, the Greeks, or the dukes of Spoleto and Benevento, as his interests demanded.
- k* In 730 Gregory II put the Emperor Leo III under the ban, and set forth the principle that the affairs of the Church are to be managed by the Popes, not by the Emperor.

EXERCISE.

Describe any three of the causes which favored the growth of the Papacy.



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